(c) whether it is a fact that the country's shipping capacity has been stagnant for a decade or more and the share of Cargo carried by Indian Bottoms in overseas trade has in long term decline; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve this grim situation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Shipping Policy Committee are under examination in the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, the Indian tonnage has grown from 5.8 million Gross Registered Tonnes as on 1.1.1987 to 7.05 million Gross Registered Tonnes as on 1.1.1997. The cargo carried by Indian lines has also increased from 20.16 Million Tonnes in 1985-86 to 50.79 Million Tonnes in 1996-97 (provisional).

National Highways

102. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) the central financial assistance provided to these States for the maintenance of National Highways during the last three years and proposed to be provided during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The length of National Highways in the States and the Central financial assistance during the last three years and proposed during 1997-98 is as under:

(Maintenance & Repair)

State	Length (in Kms)	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs) 1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Punjab	892	736.97	770.92	1182.13	1191.75
Uttar Pradesh	2733	2065.48	2529.94	337.40	3469.19
Orissa	1649	1186.50	1447.83	1981.73	1872.00
Rajasthan	2931	1810.83	1860.72	2669.08	2381.71
Madhya Pradesh	2946	1696.01	1971.52	3176.72	2988.78
Bihar	2347	1472.53	1763.95	2193.95	2659.77

Four lane road between Hosur and Krishnagiri

103. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to construct a four lane road between Hosur and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) what are the total National Highway projects being undertaken involving Tamil Nadu and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India is taking up the 4 laning of NH-7, from Hosur to Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu with private sectors' participation. 7 firms have been prequalified in short listing. Process of acquisition of land is underway.

(c) Annual Plan 1997-98 provides for 13 number of works. Moreover, National Highways Authority of India is also